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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended and new claim 8 is added by the present amendment. Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending and under consideration.

I. Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over US patent number 6,088,702 to Plantz et al (herein "Plantz") and US patent number 5,280,574 to Mizuta et al (herein "Mizuta"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes similar features to claim 2 (and claim 2 is accordingly canceled), and recites "tracking request entry means for receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document." Amended independent claim 1 further recites "status display means for obtaining a log corresponding to said predetermined electronic document from said predetermined resource, and displaying information indicating a present status of said predetermined electronic document, when said tracking request for tracking said predetermined electronic document is made by said tracking request entry means." Independent claims 6 and 7 are amended to include similar features.

As an advantage, in a non-limiting example, when a person at a company is to check on an in-process status of electronic calculators, first the person effects entries of the required items using the screen of an electronic document processor. After the items are entered, when an execution button is operated, a slip information management block obtains a log management table and identifies a list of logs belonging to the slip and the storage location of the log (see the specification at page 26, line 22 to page 27, line 20). By viewing the screen of the electronic document processor, it is possible to obtain an overview of the progress of the whole process (see the specification at page 28, lines 13-15).

In contrast, Plantz at col. 11, line 1-4 only discusses that a master editor for a document is invoked and final administrative review of all edited aspects of a project is permitted. Further, Plantz at col. 11, lines 18-19 only discusses that a summary of the status of each available chapter within a project is called up and the progress of aspects of the project to which authors or editors are not yet assigned is listed. However, Plantz does not discuss or suggest at least "receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document," as recited in the amended independent claims.

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Moreover, Mizuta only discusses registering derived documents in relation to an original document and selection of the registered derived document, in which the original document is later subjected to arrangement expressed by the selected derived document. However, Mizuta also does not discuss or suggest the features of amended independent claims 1, 6 and 7.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 6 and 7 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Plantz and Mizuta.

II. New Claim

In addition, new claim 8 is added to set forth the invention in a varying scope. New claim 8 includes similar features to amended independent claim 6, but is written not to be interpreted under 35 USC § 112, sixth paragraph and to better conform to standard claim drafting practice. New claim 8 is believed to be allowable at least for similar reasons as amended independent claim 6.

III. Conclusion

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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